

Remarks/Arguments:

Initially, the applicant would like to thank Examiners Brad McAdams and Ashok Patel for the courtesies extended to Kerry S. Culpepper (Reg. No. 45,672) during the telephonic interviews on 26 and 30 January 2009. During the interviews, the above amendment to claim 1 was discussed, along with the merits of the Final Rejection of 23 December 2008. Examiner McAdams stated that the finality of the rejection would be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 35-50 are rejected. New claims 51-53 have been added.

Claims 1, 35, 38, 42-43 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,154,839 to Arrow *et al.* (hereafter: "Arrow"). For the reasons discussed below, these claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite novel features associated the embodiment described, for example, pg. 35, lines 4-9, of an information processing system in which electronic equipment of the system includes an electronic equipment identifier storage section for storing an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment.

In comparison, in Arrow, the privileged address, which is asserted as disclosing the electronic equipment identifier, is only stored at the address translation unit 808. That is, the remote unit, which the examiner asserts as disclosing the electronic equipment, does not include the privileged address.

Moreover, the privileged address is not information unique to the remote unit as called for amended claim 1. Rather, Arrow describes the privileged address as being associated with a user ID (see col. 12, lines 28-30; unit 808 makes use of user ID to look up authentication key). The user ID is particular to the user and not to the machine.

Claim 1 also recites a server device comprising an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information.

The examiner has asserted that the pool of privileged addresses stored at the address translation unit 808 in Arrow describes the recited electronic equipment related information. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion because the same privileged address was cited as describing the electronic equipment identifier as well.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to disclose an information processing system in which electronic equipment of the system includes an electronic equipment identifier storage section for storing an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment, and the server device includes an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claim 35 further recites the novel embodiment *inter alia* in which the information accessing section of the server device accesses the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier.

The examiner has pointed to step 908 of Arrow as disclosing this feature. However, in step 908, Arrow only describes **associating** the remote machine address with the privileged address. That is, Arrow does not teach or suggest accessing the remote machine address **based** on the privileged address.

Further, as discussed above, the examiner previously asserted with respect to claim 1 that the privileged address described both the electronic equipment identifier and the electronic equipment related information. Thus, the assertion here is inconsistent with the assertion made with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to disclose a server device accessing the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier, the rejection of claim 35 should be withdrawn.

Claims 38, 42-43 and 46 depend from claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn for at least the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 1.

Claims 36-37, 39-41, 44-45 and 47-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arrow. For the reasons discussed below, these claims, as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 36 recites the novel embodiment of a server device including *inter alia* an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information.

The examiner has asserted that the pool of privileged addresses stored at the address translation unit 808 in Arrow describes the recited electronic equipment related information. The applicant respectfully disagrees with this assertion because the same privileged address was cited as describing the electronic equipment identifier.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to teach or suggest a server device which includes an electronic equipment related information storage section storing one or more pieces of electronic equipment related information, the rejection of claim 36 should be withdrawn.

Claim 37 further recites the novel embodiment *inter alia* in which the information accessing section of the server device accesses the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier.

The examiner has pointed to step 908 of Arrow as disclosing this feature. However, in step 908, Arrow only describes **associating** the remote machine address with the privileged address. That is, Arrow does not teach or suggest accessing the remote machine address **based** on the privileged address.

Further, as discussed above, the examiner previously asserted with respect to claim 36 that the privileged address described both the electronic equipment identifier and the electronic equipment related information. Thus, the assertion here is inconsistent with the assertion made with respect to claim 36.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to disclose a server device accessing the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 37 be withdrawn.

Claim 39 recites the novel embodiment of an information processing method in which the server device receives information from electronic equipment including index information associated with an electronic equipment identifier of the electronic equipment and obtains an electronic equipment identifier based on the index information.

Claim 39 has been amended to clarify that the electronic equipment stores an electronic equipment identifier that is information unique to the electronic equipment as described on, for example, pg. 35, lines 4-9 and that the electronic equipment identifier obtained at the information accessing step is similar to the electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment as described on, for example, pg. 39, lines 5-15.

The examiner correctly notes that Arrow describes replacing the source address of a packet received by a remote machine with a privileged address after authenticating the packet.

However, the privileged address obtained at the server is not also stored at the remote machine. Nor would one skilled in the art be motivated to modify Arrow so that the remote machine included the privileged address. Such a motivation would eliminate the need for the authentication process at the address translation unit itself.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to teach or suggest that the remote machine stores the privileged address, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 39 be withdrawn.

Claim 40 further recites the novel embodiment *inter alia* in which the server device accesses the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier.

The examiner has pointed to step 908 of Arrow as disclosing this feature. However, in step 908, Arrow only describes **associating** the remote machine address with the privileged address. That is, Arrow does not teach or suggest accessing the remote machine address **based** on the privileged address.

Further, as discussed above, the examiner previously asserted with respect to claim 39 that the privileged address described both the electronic equipment identifier and the electronic equipment related information. Thus, the assertion here is inconsistent with the assertion made with respect to claim 39.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to teach or suggest accessing the electronic equipment related information based on the electronic equipment identifier, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 40 be withdrawn.

Claims 41, 44-45 and 47-49 depend from claims 1, 36 and 39. Therefore, these claims should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claims 1, 36 and 39.

Claim 50, as well as new claims 51-52, recite the novel embodiment in which the electronic equipment related information includes an Internet protocol address of a router coupled to the electronic equipment.

The examiner has asserted that the privileged address or the machine address of the remote machine teaches or suggest the electronic equipment related equipment with regards to claims 1, 35, 36, 37, 39 and 40. However, the examiner did not specifically address the limitations of claim 50 in the previous office action.

Nonetheless, during the telephonic interview, the examiner stated that it would have been obvious for a server to have such information if the remote device was behind a router at a private network. However, in such as case, the privileged address, which the examiner asserts as describing the electronic equipment identifier, would be an address for the router and not the remote device.

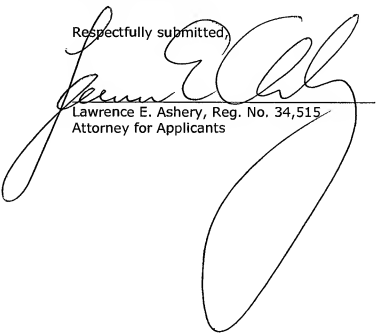
That is, Arrow fails to teach or suggest an electronic equipment identifier for the electronic device in the case in which the remote device is behind a router. Accordingly, claims 50-52 should be in condition for allowance.

New claim 53 depends from claim 36, and further recites that the electronic equipment identifier obtained is similar to the electronic equipment identifier stored at the electronic equipment as described on, for example, pg. 39, lines 5-15.

In Arrow, the privileged address obtained at the server is not also stored at the remote machine. Nor would one skilled in the art be motivated to modify Arrow so that the remote machine included the privileged address. Such a motivation would eliminate the need for the authentication process at the address translation unit itself.

Accordingly, because Arrow fails to teach or suggest that the remote machine stores the privileged address, new claim 53 should be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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